

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 09/23/73//266

SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 202000Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 30

TO PETER RODMAN FOR DR KISSINGER

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH32558

TOHAK 30

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES, [REDACTED]

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REFERENCE: [REDACTED]

1. GENERAL

A. (S) THE ISRAELI TASK FORCE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL HAS CHANGED A POTENTIAL WAR OF ATTRITION INTO A WAR OF MOVEMENT, AND DECISIVE DEVELOPMENTS ARE SAID TO BE CLOSE AT HAND. EGYPT, WITH MOST OF ITS RESERVE FORCES ALREADY COMMITTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEM THE ISRAELI INVASION, MAY WELL BE REQUIRED TO FURTHER WEAKEN ITS FORCES ALONG THE EAST BANK.

B. (S) THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ISRAELI DRIVE ON CAIRO IS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY. ISRAELI OBJECTIVES SEEM CLEAR. THEY APPARENTLY PLAN TO SEIZE AND DESTROY THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE ALONG THE WEST BANK AND INLAND TO ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS (25 NAUTICAL MILES) AND THEN CONDUCT A FINAL ASSAULT AGAINST WHAT WOULD BE A WEAKENED AND HIGHLY VULNERABLE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

25X1

25X1

25X1

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

HONE, SEC FILE

PSN:012354

DTG:020200

TOR:12932024

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25X1

0. (S/NFO) ACTION ON THE SYRIAN FRONT CENTERED ON ARTILLERY EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE COMBINED ARAB FORCES. BEYOND THE LIMITED GAINS APPARENTLY MADE BY THE JORDANIANS AND IRAQIS YESTERDAY, NO FURTHER TERRAIN HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE ARABS. BOTH ARAB AND ISRAELI FORCES ALONG THE SYRIAN FRONT APPEAR TO BE CONTENT TO MAINTAIN THEIR RELATIVE POSITIONS AND HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATIONS THAT ANY ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE WILL TAKE PLACE SOON.

2. EGYPTIAN FRONT

25X1
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25X1

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25X1

4. OTHER ARAB ACTIVITY

A. JORDAN

(S/NFO/CO) THE RJAF HAS OBSERVED A DAWN-TO-DUSK ALERT SINCE COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES, THE KING AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THE COUNTRY'S INVOLVEMENT CONFINED TO THE ARMORED BRIGADE AND INFREQUENT AIR DEFENSIVE PATROLS.

B. ALGERIA

1 (S/NFO) THE PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO MOSCOW CAME AWAY FROM MEETINGS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS UNDER THE OPINION THAT THE USSR IS NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE ARABS IF THEY START LOSING THE WAR, THE ALGERIAN FEELING WAS THAT THE FATE OF THE WAR RESTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

END PAGE TWO

2 (S/NFO) ON 14 OCTOBER, A 250-TRUCK CONVOY, APPARENTLY FROM ALGIERS, PASSED THROUGH TRIPOLI. THE SAME DAY, A TROOP CONVOY LARGER THAN A BRIGADE--ALSO REPORTEDLY FROM

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ALGERIA--PASSED THROUGH TOBRUK.

5. SOVIET-WARSAW PACT ACTIVITY

A. SOVIET GROUND

(U) NO CHANGE.

B. SOVIET NAVY

(S) THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF
THE MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.

C. SOVIET AIR

25X1

REPORTED,

XGDS-2

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